

The Dead Horse

March 2010

SAVE STATE PARKS.



A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

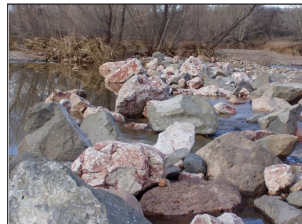
A huge pile of branches developed after the volunteers Kevan Ward, Patrick Rhoades, Indigo Cantor and Paul Groves had thinned the cottonwood groves at the lagoons and along the shores. The thinning will allow remaining trees to grow fuller and be healthier, as well as providing better access at the lagoon for fishermen. Rangers Tony Viotti and Max Castillo (right) feed cottonwood branches into a woodchipper across from the lagoons.

Clean-up



(left) Up stream from the diversion looking toward Mingus Mountain

(right) The big rocks are all that remain of our diversion in the river but they are still pushing water into the ditch.



(left) River Day Use area, River is still about 4 feet above normal, down from the 9 foot crest. 2005's flood event was 17 foot and covered the entire day use area

Volunteer Meeting



Lisa O'Neill presented information on the Verde River Canyon Railroad at a January meeting of volunteers. Campground hosts and visitor center volunteers can provide details about the railroad trip for Dead Horse visitors, filling them in on the scenic trip and the eagles nesting in the canyon's crevices.

Ranger Linda Hauk's Surprise



Barb Penny (at left in photo) hosted a birthday party at her home to celebrate Ranger Linda Hauk's birthday in January. Also pictured, left to right: Maryan Pharo, Ann Nason and Laurie Blitsch, sip a bit of prickly pear cactus wine while waiting for Linda to arrive. Some of the recipes Barb used will be included in the next issues.

The Day The Rains Came



Many volunteers and rangers spent all day working in the rain to fill sandbags and distribute them where needed before more than two inches of rain fell in the valley, causing area rivers to flood their banks. These sandbags are at park manager Les Bovee's home.

Others were placed at low spots along the river. While the river did swell to more than 7,000 cfs, minimal flooding did occur.

Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival April 21-25

George and I are both physically unable to work as hosts anymore. We thoroughly agree that the Arizona State Parks need to be kept open. Please add us to your list, we will do what we can. Also, please note—our address has changed. We now receive our mail at PO Box 3012, Payson, Az. 85547. We have been getting the DHRSP news late (the post mistress at Wenden forwards our mail to us) and the last storm flooded Wenden out. All the roads out of Payson were closed due to snow. I guess we all had our storm problems. Ruby & George Stolze

Thank you so much for the Newsletter from DHRSP. Del Foster, my husband, always forwards it to me. Del and I were campground hosts in Quail Loop in 2006 and still enjoy hearing the news from there. Del and I hosted at Elephant Butte State Park, New Mexico from April-July 2009; we then went to Palomar Mtn. State Park near San Diego, CA from Aug-Oct 2009. We love campground hosting no matter where we are. However, the rangers like Les, George, Randy and the volunteers were so nice that I tell people that DHRSP, in Cottonwood, AZ, was my favorite. The Newsletter was especially beautiful this time with the lovely rainbow and the winter scenery. Keep up the good work. Tell Nan and all the others that contribute the photography and news a big "Thank You!"

Anne and Del Foster



Volunteer Carolyn Scott brought back a lot of information from the rally in Phoenix on February 1st, and is working on a press release. Volunteers are discussing several ways to get the word out to folks who use the parks. The goal is to let folks know the value of state parks, what they offer, what the public will lose when they close, and how closures will immediately impact businesses in surrounding communities and ultimately the state budget. Figures indicate the State of Arizona stands to lose much more than it will gain by sweeping away the state parks' operating money. If you have thoughts or ideas or would like to help, please contact Carolyn Scott at scotties2189@netzero.com.



(left) Sandy Byrd, event coordinator Sierra Club, and Representative Patterson from Southern AZ, speak at the Rally on Feb 1, in Phoenix. Not pictured, Representative Chad Campbell is introducing a bill to prevent sweeping of parks funds, HRC2044.

submitted by Carolyn Scott





Y'all come!
to the
**5th annual
Cowboy
Potluck
and
Chili
Cookoff**

Monday, March 29, 2010
Raven Loop Ramada 5 p.m.
Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Volunteer Recognition
Horse Shoes
Fun & Games for kids
All volunteers and
ranger families welcome



The 5th Annual Wild West Potluck and Chili Cookoff

will be held Monday, March 29, at the Ramada in Raven Loop at Dead Horse Ranch State Park. All volunteers and rangers and their families are invited to attend. The event begins at 5 p.m. with horseshoes and games for the kids, and the chili judging. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. And fried chicken will be provided. Please email Nan Hephner at mokicat@earthlink.net with the following information: Your name, number of adults attending, number of children, your passing dish (i.e. salad, casserole, dessert etc.), and name of your chili cookoff entry.

Call 928-634-5283 for more information and to volunteer to be a judge for the chili cookoff. Western fashions are encouraged, but not required.

The Fabulous Four!



Frank & Rose Larrimore meet up with Tom and Anne Howe in Florida

Tom and I met up with Frank and Rose for a couple of days here in Florida. We had fun going to a flea market and out for lunch and of course we spent the whole time talking about news of DHRSP. The weather here in Florida is unusually cool this winter but we are not complaining it is a whole lot worse other places. We all hope to get together again at Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, where Tom and I are volunteering this winter, before they head west back to Arizona. I am sending you a photo of the four of us. Best to all at Dead Horse Ranch, Anne & Tom Howe

The Volunteer Voice can be accessed at: http://www.pr.state.az.us/volunteer/v_newsletter

Which Way Did They Go?



Ranger Eric Buzonas and Wanda Ward, exchange a few laughs... all in a day's work.

Volunteer Voice Honors Wanda Ward



Volunteer Voice, Issue # 1, February, 2008, honored Wanda Ward, who has been a volunteer at DHRSP since 2002. During that time she has logged in over 3,000 hours.

Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

- * Harold Flavell is a new off-park volunteer
- * Pat Rhodes & Keven Ward have departed to Patagonia Lake SP

March MileStones

- 1-Jim Harris
- 2-John Hart
- 3-Anne Zeller
- 4-Margo Albright
- 4-Chuck Mullins
- 11-Eric Buzonas
- 12-Emmo & Shirley Oltmanns (1955)
- 13-Joyce Jones
- 18-Keven Ward & Patrick Rhoads
- 18-Wes Scott
- 21-Ken House
- 22-Burt Appling
- 23-Les & Elizabeth Bovee
- 26-Tom Howe

Dates to Remember

March

- Tuesdays - 6:30 Gamenight, Greenway, bring snack, beverage, game, learn a new one
- 6 - Volunteer Venture, Rocking River Ranch, 10 am
- 8 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 22 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- April 21-25 - Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival

Recipes

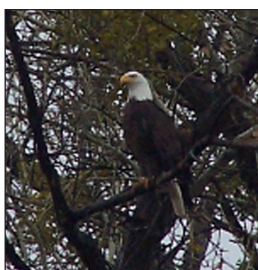
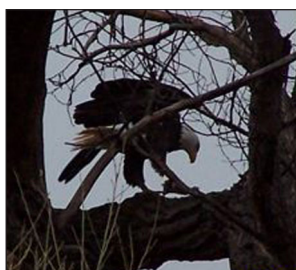
PURITAN WASSAIL

Carolyn & Wes Scott
(Quail Loop Volunteers)

- 1 gal apple cider
- 2/3 of 46 oz can pineapple juice
- 2/3 of a 6 oz frozen orange juice
- juice of 2 lemons
- 3/4 box stick cinnamon
- 40 whole cloves

Combine all ingredients in large pan. Simmer at least 30 minutes. Serve hot. For extra kick, add 1/2 to 1 pint apple brandy or hard cider to cooked Wassail. Heat, but do not boil. Makes 12 servings.

DHRSP Eagles



Pictures of the eagles at DHRSP were submitted by Bill Marro. He is a former Park Ranger II at Dead Horse. He still resides in Cottonwood with his wife, Susan. They often walk along the lagoons in the mornings with their dogs Chewie & Shep.

submitted by Eric Buzonas

I would like to give my heart felt "THANK YOU" for my surprise birthday party, and to all who attended, and to Barbara Penny for opening up her home and hosting it. She laid out a delicious lunch for all of us and baked a chocolate cherry cake that was heavenly. (sorry guys it was for ladies only, you really missed a great time) Also, "thank you" to Bill Warner and Dave Penny for working the office to allow the gals to join us. Thank you all for making me feel so loved and appreciated, not only for the wonderful party, but for welcoming me back to Dead Horse Ranch. What a pleasure it is working with all of you, both staff and volunteers!

Linda F. Hawk



Photo art by Nan Hephner

About Mr. Spencer

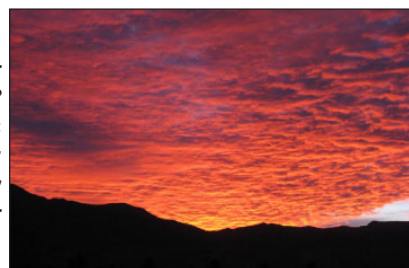
(poem on the right) Mr. Gene Spencer was camped here and he jotted this poem down after seeing the cabin. I felt that Mr. Spencer's poem caught the essence of the old structure in a very insightful way. I was touched by the reminiscence that the poem awoke in me and felt that it would be appreciated by our volunteers who have seen the cabin many times and may have had reflections similar to his.

submitted by Les Bovee



From the Manager:

We are still here and hoping for the best under some very precarious circumstances. Although DHRSP has been spared closure to date, the future is still very uncertain. I appreciate all of the support we have witnessed in these recent months concerning our situation. DHRSP volunteers, like Carolyn Scott, have been very proactive in the DHRSP Volunteer Coalition, thinking of ways to partner and garner support to save our parks. There is still much to be done to rally the troops and inspire park users to speak out. You may know, that as state employees, park rangers can not be involved in such activities. Your concern and involvement is appreciated more than you can know. Keep your eyes open for future volunteer emailings and don't hesitate to share ideas that can help preserve all that Arizona State Parks has to offer.



*Sunset over DHRSP
Photo on right was taken by Ranger Linda Hawk.*

DHRSP Hill Top Cabin

I have stood the test of time
Men who came to live within my walls
Have long ago passed on
I have lost my plumage to the winds of winter
and the sting of summer sun
My windows, void of glass, give welcomed passage
to the breath of my desert host
there was a time when just the sight of me
defined hope, well being and security
I am alone now, there is within my walls
Only the shadows
Only the memories of a time long passed
Still I stand my ground
Will someone claim me and call me home again
I think not
Those who pass my way only wonder
What I know
I was Home
Spencer '09



**ARIZONA STATE PARKS
VOLUNTEER VENTURE**
A training and recognition Event



When: Saturday, March 6, 2010, 10am – 3pm

Where: Rocking River Ranch, Camp Verde, Arizona

Located south and west of Camp Verde, from Highway 260 south of I-17 and Finnie Flat Road

-turn south (right) onto Oasis Rd., follow Oasis Rd. down the hill and at the intersection turn south (right) on to Salt Mine Rd.

-drive south on Salt Mine Road nearly 6 miles, paralleling the Verde (you won't go as far as Beasley Flat)

-the driveway to RRR is on the left just beyond the USFS rest rooms and parking area and will be signed Clear Creek River Access Point

-drive all the way in to the large Lodge Building

Dry Camping is available at the Ranch for free (no hook-ups, rest rooms without showers). Lodging is available in Camp Verde.

AGENDA

10:00am: Parks Volunteer Recognition

11:30am: Lunch

1:00pm: Site Steward Recognition

1:00pm: Update on the State of Arizona State Parks

2:00pm: Petroglyph Appreciation and Context – Presentation by
Maggie Leef, Northeastern Region Site Steward

2:00pm: Presentation - Issues on the Verde

3:00pm: Closing

LUNCH: BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, drinks.

Unfortunately we are not able to cover the cost of lunch due to the state of the budget. Lunch is \$6 per person.

TO REGISTER:

Please go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVSSReg>

Or Contact Nicole Armstrong-Best at 602-542-7152 or e-mail at

narmstrong@azstateparks.gov .